

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

and therefore the sweetest odour of sanctity
rises no more

•om the Holy of Holies." But still she saw room for hope. Rome is verily as thou hast seen," said the Voice ; " the altars re desolate, the offertory is spent in the taverns, and they that ffer serve the world rather than God. Know, nevertheless, that, •om the time of Peter the humble even until Boniface ascended le seat of pride, innumerable souls have ascended to Heaven, lome is still not without friends of God ; let them call upon the ,ord, and He will have mercy upon them."¹ And again she card the high command : " Thou shalt remain in Rome until lou seest the Pope and the Emperor, and thou shalt speak to icm in My name the words that I shall tell thee." So, with the icception of a pilgrimage to Assisi and the holy places of Naples, irgitta remained in Rome, tending the sick in the hospitals, sgging alms for the poor, labouring for the salvation of souls, hile she waited for the promised advent of Pontiff and Emperor ; id, in the meanwhile, *¹ she had many revelations concerning the ate of the City, in which our Lord Jesus Christ rebuked the ccesses and the sins of its inhabitants, with grave threatening of lastisement. Which revelations, brought to the knowledge of le inhabitants of Rome, stirred up furious hatred against the lessed Birgitta. Wherefore some of them threatened to burn er alive, and others blasphemed her as a sorceress ; but the lessed Birgitta patiently suffered their threats and insults." ²

To this coming of Pope and Emperor the thoughts of .all 'ho looked for the salvation of Israel were soon to be directed ; et was it to prove but the song that "bore false witness of awn."

¹ *Revelationesy* III. 27.

² *Revektionesy extravagantes*, 8.